

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 109607 TOSEC 110741

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109607 TOSEC 110741

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM BEIRUT DTD 05 APR 1976 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4003

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LATEST SYRIAN THINKING ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

1. PAPERS REPORT RESULTS OF MISSION BY PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY AMIN HAFIZ TO DAMASCUS, SENT THERE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF HOUSE SPEAKER KAMAL ASSAAD TO GET LATEST SYRIAN THINKING ON A THIRD CANDIDATE. THIS IDEAS WAS REJECTED BY DAMASCUS.

2. HAD CHANCE TO CHECK OUT ABOVE WITH PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY JOSEPH SKAFF FROM THE BEKAA WHO CALLED ON ME TO MAKE THE USUAL APPEAL FOR SOME SORT OF U.S. ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING THE CRISIS. SKAFF SAID THAT THE SYRIANS INFORMED HAFIZ THAT THEY WANTED A STRONG CANDIDATE. THEY ALSO TOLD HAFIZ THAT NEITHER

RAYMOND EDDE NOR HIS BROTHER IS ACCEPTABLE. ONLY ALTERNATIVE
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PAGE 02 STATE 109607 TOSEC 110741

LEFT OPEN WAS KOR THOSE WHO WANTED A THIRD CANDIDATE TO GET IN TOUCH

WITH THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN LEADERS SUCH AS FRANGIE OR GEMAYEL.
IF THESE WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT SOMEONE BESIDES SARKIS THEN THE
SYRIANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO ALONG.
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